

Crucible Steel Co. Running at Profit, Chairman Asserts

**Operations Have Shown a
Marked Improvement
Since a Fiscal Year End-
ed August 31, He Says**

Horace S. Wilkinson, chairman of the board of directors of the Crucible Steel Company, told stockholders at the annual meeting in Jersey City yesterday that operations since the fiscal year ended August 31 have shown marked improvement and the company is now running at profit.

Mr. Wilkinson further reported that proceeds from the recent sale of 85,000,000 common stock at par have been paid to the company and that there are now no outstanding current liabilities except usual monthly bills which are for material used in each current month's business.

"The first two months of the current year," he said, "have reflected very materially for the better the condition of our operations. We are now in a position

now showing black figures in operations, or a profit instead of a loss."

The month of October shows the largest increase in orders over the preceding month that we have had at any time since the depression began, and we take pleasure in stating that it is our belief that the tide has turned and stock is purely speculative in character.

"Operations at our Midland plant are assuming more normal conditions than at any time in two years. We are mining 2,500 tons of coal daily and de-

veloping it in our barges by water from the mines to our coke ovens and blast furnaces. We are looking forward in every way to meet the requirements of our market during the winter months, and believe they will be able to keep our plants in operation. Our unfilled orders are increasing each month and our customers are looking forward to obtaining their requirements that they may be able to continue their operations."

We are putting into effect every possible economy that we may sell our products at the lowest possible price, hereby obtaining the greatest opera-

tions possible. We look forward with great confidence for the future.

Retiring directors were re-elected at yesterday's meeting.

Denies \$7,000,000 Tax Suit Against Coca-Cola

**Candler Says Delaware Corp's
Stipulated Payments Were To
Be Made by Georgia Co.**

Reports that a \$7,000,000 suit would be filed against the Coca-Cola Company by the government for taxes were denied yesterday in a telegram sent to a member of a Stock Exchange firm by Charles E. Candler, president of the company. The telegram, in substance, said:

"The Coca-Cola Company, a Delaware corporation, purchased the assets of the Coca-Cola Company, Georgia, before a formal purchase. It was stipulated that all Federal taxes were to be paid by the Georgia corporation.

For many years prior to the passing of control into new hands and organization of a holding company known as the Rock Island Company, in 1902, the old Rock Island Railway was one of the very substantial railroads of the Middle West.

It was a consistent earner, was ably managed and paid conservative dividends on its single class of capital stock.

The Delaware corporation under the law could not be made liable, being a bona fide purchaser and stipulating in regard to Federal taxes. The government has not filed any suit, but has not made demand on the Delaware corporation. The only tax question up in regard to the Delaware corporation is in regard to its item as to whether it should be charged to expense or to investment of capital, involving less than \$1,000.

The Delaware corporation is not contemplating issuing new securities and has over \$4,000,000 in the bank and no bills payable."

Railroads' Earning Power No. 31—Chic., Rock Island & Pacific

We present in the subjoined article the thirty-first of a series of forty daily discussions of the present earning power of the leading American steam railroads. At the request of The Tribune, these articles were undertaken by the Standard & Poor's Company, of New York, which has prepared the original work securing a copyright for them in 1922. The thirty-second article will appear tomorrow and will deal with Southern Pacific. —Financial Editor.

No. 31—Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific

The misfortunes of the old Rock Island, which culminated in receivership and reorganization, are directly traceable to financial policies adopted after new financial interests had replaced the former conservative management in 1902. A new company emerged from the wreckage of the old in 1917 and since then there has been a gradual strengthening of its financial position.

The bond issues, which lost the rating of safe, ranking them formerly as junk, have been working steadily and are now well regarded. The preferred stocks issues may fairly be classed among the so-called "business man" investments, with good prospects of ranking some day among the high grade preferred stocks. The common stock is purely speculative in character.

"Operations at our Midland plant are

assuming more normal conditions than at any time in two years. We are

mining 2,500 tons of coal daily and de-

veloping it in our barges by water from the mines to our coke ovens and blast furnaces. We are looking forward in every way to meet the requirements of our market during the winter months, and believe they will be able to keep our plants in operation. Our unfilled orders are increasing each month and our customers are looking forward to obtaining their requirements that they may be able to continue their operations."

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Growth of Capitalization and Mileage

(Millions of dollars)

Funded debt, pref. stock, Total

Year 1913 \$264.6 87.6 \$352.6

1912 229.4 74.5 245.9

Inc. (%) 49 — 51

*Old company. Reorganized company.

Between 1912 and 1922 the operated mileage has increased from 8,042 miles to 12,233 miles, or 1 per cent.

It will be noted that Rock Island, as reorganized, has a much better record of capitalized than the old company. In 1912 the proportion of funded debt to total capitalization was 77 per cent. In 1922 it had been reduced to 64 per cent.

Estimated Property Value

The estimated property value of the company is \$420,000,000, or 100 per cent.

funded debt and the preferred stock issues be theoretically retired at par, there would remain an equity for the common stock in estimated property value equivalent to \$200 a share.

Growth of Revenues

(Millions of dollars)

Gross Net after Total

Year 1913 \$84.7 15.3 100.0

1912 126.8 19.9 147.7

Inc. (%) 56 — 51

*Estimated.

Buy Oil Properties

The Middle States Oil Corporation and the Southern States Oil Corporation have closed contracts giving them a majority interest in the properties of E. M. Brown Jr. in Louisiana and South Arkansas. This is said to be one of the most extensive properties as Chaupeak & Ohio preferred.

Financial Items

Home Title Insurance Company have elected John L. Finch a director of the company.

Sure Bros. Co. announced that Russell M. White has withdrawn from association with their firm.

For many years prior to the passing of control into new hands and organization of a holding company known as the Rock Island Company, in 1902, the old Rock Island Railway was one of the very substantial railroads of the Middle West.

It was a consistent earner, was ably managed and paid conservative dividends on its single class of capital stock.

But with the formation of the Rock Island Company, an inflation scheme pure and simple, came the purchasing of extensive interest in other properties—notably the St. Louis & San Francisco—which ultimately involved the Rock Island Railway in serious losses and finally brought the whole

company into bankruptcy.

The Delaware corporation under the law could not be made liable, being a bona fide purchaser and stipulating in regard to Federal taxes. The government has not filed any suit, but has not made demand on the Delaware corporation. The only tax question up in regard to the Delaware corporation is in regard to its item as to whether it should be charged to expense or to investment of capital, involving less than \$1,000.

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Miscellaneous Markets

Public Utilities Securities

Bldg. Ask'd. Bid. Ask'd. Bid. Ask'd.

Avg. P & L 21 24 Col. P 50 50

Col. P & L 21 24 Col. P 50 50

Am. L. T. 137 141 60 60

do pf. 97 109 60 60

D&B & G 24 24 60 60

A. G. & E. 137 141 60 60

E. B. & S. 137 141 60 60

A. M. & L. 137 141 60 60

do pf. 97 109 60 60

do pf. 97 1